

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 6827

E.9. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, UN, AF, OTRA
SUBJ: DEMTRE TRAVEL TO AFGHANISTAN

REF: A. STATE 187077; B. KABUL 5496; C. GENEVA 6637

SUMMARY. MISSION OFFICER MADE MEMARCHE UPON UNDFAC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DE BEUS AUGUST 10 IN ACCORD WITH REFS A AND B CONCERNING NEED FOR DEMETRE, PROJECT DEVELOPMENT OFFICER ON UNFDAC STAFF, TO PROCEED TO KABUL AS EXPEDITIOUSLY AS POSSIBLE AND CERTAINLY IN TIME TO MEET WITH AMB. ELIOT. MR. DE BEUS CONCURRED WITH NEED FOR EXPEDITIOUS DEPARTURE AND SO NOTIFIED DEMETRE, WHO IS ARRANGING TRAVEL. DETAILS OF TRAVEL TO FOLLOW SEPTEL. END SUMMARY.

1. MISSION OFFICER MADE DEMARCHE UPON UNFDAC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DE BEUS IMMEDIATELY UPON LATTER'S RETURN TO GENEVA FROM SHORT TRIP. DEMARCHE MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

(A) AFTER CONSIDERING THOUGHTFUL ALTERNATIVES PROVIDED BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DE BEUS IN HIS CONVERSATION OF AUGUST 2, REF C, DEPARTMENT BELIEVES BEST HOPE FOR SUCCESS OF DEMETRE ACTIVITIES WOULD BE IN SENDING HIM TO AFGHANISTAN TO DEVISE PROJECTS IN THE HELMAND VALLEY WITH THE HOPE THAT OVER LONGER TERM GOA WILL PERMIT HIM TO OPERATE IN NANGARHAR AND KUNAR. THOUGH HELMAND MAY NOT BE THE PRINCIPAL GROWING
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AREA, IT WILL SERVE AS THE FIRST STEP.

(C) THE US HAS HAD EXPERIENCE IN AFGHANISTAN OF AMERICAN OFFICIALS WITH ORIGINALLY CIRCUMSCRIBED MANDATES BEING ABLE TO EXPAND THEIR RANGE OF CONTACTS AND ACTIVITIES BEYOND THOSE LIMITATIONS AS THE AFGHANS PERCEIVE THAT THEY ARE USEFUL AND WELL-MOTIVATED.

(C) IN ADDITION, USG IS CONTINUING TO PRESS THE GOA TO

WIDEN THE FOCUS OF ITS ANTI-NARCOTICS ACTIVITY TO INCLUDE NANGARHAR AND KUNAR.

(D) DEPARTMENT BELIEVES HELMAND PROPOSAL DESERVES SPEEDY AND FAIR EXAMINATION. THE AREA IS NOT RELATED TO PREVIOUS AID PROJECTS - SO INFORMATION WHICH WAS REQUESTED BY DEMETRE IS NOT DIRECTLY RELEVANT. MATERIALS REQUESTED, HOWEVER, ARE AVAILABLE IN KABUL FOR HIS EXAMINATION. AN ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK SURVEY OF THE UPPER HELMAND IS EXPECTED TO BE READY SHORTLY WHICH ALSO MAY BE USEFUL.

(E) DEPARTMENT BELIEVES UPPER HELMAND REGIONS OF KAJAKAI, SANGIN AND QALA MUSA DO CONSTITUTE SIGNIFICANT AREA OF OPIUM PRODUCTION WHERE UNFDAC MIGHT BE ABLE DEVELOP APPROPRIATE PROJECTS.

(F) WITH RESPECT TO TIMING OF DEMETRE TRAVEL, DEPARTMENT IS CONCERNED OVER ANY DELAY IN INITIATING EXPEDITIOUS FOLLOW-UP TO THE INITIAL MEETING OF JOINT COMMISSION, FOR FEAR OF LOSS OF MOMENTUM.

(G) IT WOULD LIKE TO HAVE GOA SEE SOME ACTIVITY UNDERWAY BEFORE THE POPPY PLANTING SEASON BEGINS IN SEPTEMBER. DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THIS WOULD HELP REINFORCE EFFORTS TO EXPAND THE JOINT-COMMISSION ATTENTIONS TO BROADER OPIUM PRODUCTION QUESTIONS, INCLUDING NANGARHAR AND KUNAR.

(H) DEPARTMENT NOTES THAT AMB. ELIOT IS LEAVING KABUL ON AUG. 19 FOR HOME LEAVE. DEPARTMENT BELIEVES IT WOULD BE MOST USEFUL FOR DEMETRE TO RECEIVE A BRIEFING FROM AMB. ELIOT ON THE SCENE IN KABUL ON THE POPPY CULTIVATION SITUATION.

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TION IN AFGHANISTAN.

(I) DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZES DESIRABILITY OF DEMETRE ARRIVING KABUL WHEN MAGNUSSEN IS THERE, BUT IN VIEW OF URGENCY OF PROMPT ACTION AND OF FACT THAT RES REP BORTHWICK WILL BE IN KABUL FOR DEMETRE TO REPORT TO AND HAVE LIAISON WITH, DEPARTMENT WOULD URGE THAT DEMETRE BE SENT TO KABUL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, AND CERTAINLY BEFORE AMB. ELIOT'S DEPARTURE.

2. MR. DE BEUS EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR US EFFORTS BROADEN JOINT-COMMISSION AREA OF INTEREST TO NANGARHAR AND KUNAR. IN VIEW OF MOMENTUM ESTABLISHED AND NEED FOR ACTION BEFORE NEXT PLANTING SEASON IN SEPTEMBER, HE CONCURRED IN DESIRABILITY OF DEMETRE'S DEPARTING FOR KABUL ASAP. HE SO INFORMED DEMETRE WHO IS ARRANGING TRAVEL. MISSION WILL TRANSMIT TRAVEL SCHEDULE SOONEST. VANDEN HEUVEL

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